

A native of Washington state, Ms. Bley joined CRS in 1984 as a temporary employee in the Inquiry Section where she directed congressional requesters to the CRS employees best suited to respond to their particular needs. She quickly moved from a temporary to a permanent position, and soon afterward to a leadership position within the section.

During her time in the Inquiry Section, Ms. Bley returned to graduate school part-time and in 1987, she earned a Master's Degree in Library Science (MLS) from The Catholic University of America. After obtaining her MLS, she moved to a librarian position in the Congressional Reference Division within CRS, where she responded directly to congressional requests.

Ms. Bley's special aptitude for serving Congress was evident in her work as a librarian. In 1993, she was invited by CRS leadership to participate in a detail to the new Congressional Services Team in the Office of the Librarian of Congress. In this position, she worked to further the mission of the team to study and enhance the Library's understanding of and responsiveness to congressional needs, and congressional understanding of the Library's mission and potential.

In the mid-1990s, Ms. Bley was frequently at the forefront of the transition at CRS from a world dominated by print research materials to a digital research world. Her early efforts were mostly visible only to her CRS colleagues as she worked on efforts to digitize reference materials and facilitate access to on-line federal data sources.

Ms. Bley specialized in appropriations and budget issues, and made significant enhancements to the appropriations and budget information available through the CRS website. The culminating accomplishment of Ms. Bley's work was the extremely popular Appropriations Status Table. This tool, updated daily, allows CRS colleagues and Congress to access extensive and timely information on current and historical appropriations activities through one convenient resource.

Throughout her career, CRS leadership recognized Ms. Bley's work for Congress with numerous awards, including individual and group Special Achievement Awards and a Meritorious Service Award. Ms. Bley's efforts as a team member were lauded in one award as the "glue" that held the CRS Appropriations Team together. In another, Ms. Bley's work was praised as being "distinguished by creativity, independent initiative, thoroughness, timeliness, and a service orientation that resulted in detailed responses and products of the highest quality."

During her tenure, Ms. Bley won the respect and admiration of her colleagues and those she served in Congress. She will be remembered for her poise; her sense of perspective; her thoughtful analysis; her ability to identify and implement practical solutions to complex problems; her wit, humor, and energy; and her excitement in learning from and collaborating with colleagues. Her vision and leadership will continue to benefit CRS and Congress long after her retirement on October 31, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Bley upon her retirement from CRS. She epitomizes the dedication and excellence that make CRS the envy of legislatures around the world.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL AIR STATION LEMOORE

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Naval Air Station Lemoore (NASL) and the Century Anniversary of United States Naval Aviation. The NASL has been home to many historical milestones and an asset in providing safety and security for the people of the San Joaquin Valley, California, the Western Front and our great nation.

On July 8, 1961, NASL was commissioned and began its operation under the command of Captain Howard M. Avery. At the time, the commissioning ceremony included over 110,000 people and the military asset was worth \$100 million. Over its 50 year history, the base has seen its fair share of challenges to maintain the support of the Western Front. Initially a small 1,460-acre Army Airfield, the base has grown to a 31,000-acre state of the art facility that provides housing to its residents.

NAS Lemoore has been a pioneer in firsts. The first flag ceremony was held in front of the administration building in September 1960; the first 800 Capeheart units were built in 1961; and the first night landing with Commander Vernon Binion and Lieutenant Commander Thomas Dreis in October 1960 on the 13,500 foot runway. Perhaps a less mentioned piece of history in the Navy is the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVE). The first WAVE officer was a woman from Honolulu in February 1961, Lieutenant Junior Grade Sue Ann Rice; long way from home taking a chance to serve her country and found her way to our community of Lemoore.

Naval air stations are an integral part of the United States Military. As of 2010, our nation boasted 19 naval air stations with a concentration in California and Florida. In a world of post September 11 vigilance, these stations provide the Navy with a stationary base of operations for aircraft-related testing and training. Since 1998, the principal mission of NASL is to support Strike-Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet and its mission to train, man, and equip West Coast Strike-Fighter squadrons. Throughout its history, the United States has seen many wars, presidents and difficult times. Nonetheless, its armed men and women have consistently been there to protect us.

Today we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. This anniversary is not only a great tribute to this important military base, but also an excellent time to thank our men and women in uniform who continue to protect the people of our great country every day. I ask my colleagues to recognize today the protectors of freedom, the sentinels of our shores and the falcons of our skies, the brave soldiers of the United States Navy.

#### ON RECOGNIZING PRAVINA RAMANATHAN FOR HER WORK TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF MICHIGAN RESIDENTS AND ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF MICHIGAN'S ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Pravina Ramanathan, for her work with the State of Michigan over the last fifteen years to protect the civil rights of its diverse residents.

As a Civil Rights Enforcer and the Asian American Liaison to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR), Pravina makes it her daily mission to protect the safety and well-being of Michigan residents and serves as an advocate for the needs of my state's Asian American communities. In her role as a Civil Rights Enforcer, Pravina devotes her energy to assessing many of the civil rights complaints which come before her office and works with victims, witnesses and other professionals to ensure that victims of discrimination are protected. Expounding further upon that work, Pravina uses her role as the Asian American Liaison to the MDCR to design and implement programs that build connections and understanding between Michigan's diverse ethnic communities. Specifically, Pravina has instructed Michigan state employees on how to exercise cultural competency, organized panels to help Asian ethnic communities better understand their rights and directly assisted victims of hate crimes and discrimination.

In recognition of her outstanding work as a civil rights advocate and protector, Pravina has been honored with numerous awards by local ethnic communities. In 1988 she was first honored as a Gold Medalist in Hindu law by Bangalore University as she graduated with a Bachelor of Law in Advocacy. In 2002, the Association of Kannada Kootas of America honored Pravina for her work to protect the civil rights of Asian Americans. She received a similar recognition from the Michigan Konkani Association in 2003 for her with the State's Indian American communities. And just earlier this month, Pravina was recognized by her own Sikh community in Michigan for her advocacy work on its behalf.

Mr. Speaker, everyday civil rights advocates, like Pravina Ramanathan, are making it their mission to ensure that our country continues to be a land of tolerance where we draw strength from our diversity. Pravina's civil rights work has earned her the praise of many organizations in Michigan and I know she will continue to be successful as she works to strengthen cross-cultural dialogues and enhance protections for victims of discrimination.